



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## Proceedings of the Club.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 27, 1898.

There were twenty two persons present.

Dr. Underwood presided in the absence of other officers.

Dr. Britton reported the inability of Mr. Clute and Prof. Lloyd to serve longer on the Field Committee. On motion, the Secretary, Mr. W. A. Bastedo, was elected Chairman of that Committee for the remainder of the present year. Mr. Rydberg and Miss Ingersoll were elected associate members of the Committee.

The scientific program followed.

The first paper, by Mr. Tracy E. Hazen, was entitled "Notes on the Life history of *Haematococcus* and other freshwater Algae." He exhibited a dried specimen of *Haematococcus* from Vermont, forming a dull red incrustation on rock, and from which some of his own cultures had been made. The paper, which will soon be published, described the stages of its life history, and was illustrated by colored drawings. Discussion by Prof. Lloyd, Dr. Townsend, Dr. Britton and others followed. The Secretary referred to a gathering of red snow made at the Crimson Cliffs of North Greenland by the Peary party two years ago, which exhibits a more brilliant red than the *Haematococcus* of our own neighborhood. The Secretary arranged to put this Greenland material into Mr. Hazen's hand for comparison. Mr. Hazen's own gatherings here have been made near Fort Lee, in pools.

The second paper, by Mrs. Elizabeth G. Britton, was entitled "An Account of the Mosses collected by Mr. Pierre Jay in Peru and Bolivia in 1893." She exhibited about 60 sheets of these mosses; the specimens shown formed, however, only a small part of the entire collection which includes many species of tropical American genera like *Hookeria* and *Meteorium*, not yet determined. The Bolivian specimens were collected in June and July near La Paz and Yungas and are largely species of high altitudes and exposed localities. The Peruvian specimens were collected in the

vicinity of Cuzco and the tributaries of the Madre de Dios, and are mostly forest species, including showy *Phyllogoniums* and *Porotrichums* and various species of *Entodon* and *Rhizogonium*. The collection promises to be very interesting and will be compared with Dr. Rusby's collections of 1885, and M. Germain's, both of which have recently been enumerated and described by Dr. C. Muller in his *Prodromus of the Mosses of Bolivia* in the *Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano* for 1897.

TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 10, 1898.

There were fifteen persons present.

President Brown was in the chair.

One new nomination for membership was reported : Miss M. Davidson, 350 West Fifty-first street, nominated by Mr. W. A. Bastedo.

Four new members were elected : Miss Harriet B. Bailey, 78 West 105th street ; Mrs. A. B. Tweedy, 353 West Boulevard ; Mr. Joseph H. Wade, Principal Grammar School 23, Mulberry and Bayard streets, and Dr. John B. Conroy, Public School 39, 235 East 125th street.

The first paper, by Dr. Arthur Hollick and Mrs. Elizabeth G. Britton, was entitled "A Description of a new Fossil Moss from the State of Washington, collected by Prof. I. C. Russell." The paper was read by Dr. Hollick, who also exhibited the original specimen, one sent to Mrs. Britton for identification by Prof. F. H. Knowlton of the National Museum in Washington. Prof. Knowlton supplied the following facts : "The specimen was collected by Prof. I. C. Russell in July, 1897, near Cle Elum, Kittitas county, Washington, and occurs in the Roslyn sandstone ; its age is probably lower Miocene or upper Eocene. It is associated with species of *Lygodium*, *Ulmus*, *Planera*, and a number of other beautifully preserved leaves. It is in any case the oldest undoubted moss thus far found in this country. The so-called *Hypnum Haydeni* of Lesquereux is with little doubt a *Lycopodium*." The specimen represents only the tip of a branch, about one-half inch in length ; it is sterile and has been compared with figures and descriptions of other fossil American mosses, and

differs from them all. It is undoubtedly a new species of the Hypnaceae, probably a *Rhynchostegium*, and will be named for its discoverer, Prof. Knowlton.

In the discussion following, it was remarked by Dr. Hollick that fossil mosses are extremely rare. All specimens known are Tertiary or later, one reported from a Carboniferous horizon being now thought doubtful; but the existence of mosses in Jurassic times is inferred from the existence of an insect then, the present representatives of which feed upon mosses. The only fossil moss heretofore recorded from the United States is Lesquereux's *Hypnum Haydeni*, now believed to be instead a species of *Lycopodium*. Fragments from the Pleistocene have been reported from Canada. The species described this evening is probably the first distinct American species. Thirty or more foreign fossil musci have been described, many of them members of the genera *Hypnum*, *Harpidium*, and *Sphagnum*. To this genus *Sphagnum* belongs the only fossil moss as yet known "in fruit," a Tertiary specimen preserved in brown iron ore.

Discussion followed regarding the reasons for the rarity of moss fossils, Dr. Underwood, Dr. Britton, Mrs. Britton, Dr. Hollick, and the Secretary participating.

The second paper, by Dr. L. M. Underwood, was entitled, "The Species of *Botrychium* of the *B. ternatum* group." The paper, which will soon be published, was accompanied by numerous specimens and followed by discussion at length of the principal eastern representatives, especially of *B. intermedium*.

Mrs. Britton followed with remarks on the Muhlenberg collection of mosses recently transferred from the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia to the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences. They are preserved exactly as Muhlenberg left them, even to the replacing of a knothole. With each specimen is preserved the number he had originally given it, the number he had used in sending it to Hedwig, and the name given it by Hedwig. The bulk of Muhlenberg's ferns went to Willdenow at Berlin.

Among the collections at the Academy of Sciences in Philadelphia, besides those of Schweinitz, Sullivant, Nuttall and Darlington, is that of Pursh, whose herbarium is still a series of scat-

tered sheets, neither mounted nor classified, but with labels supplied in his own hand.

Dr. Britton announced the recent purchase by the New York Botanic Garden of the herbarium and botanical collections of Prof. Lewis R. Gibbs, of Charleston, S. C., through his daughter, Miss Maria R. Gibbs. The herbarium of Elliott is in bad preservation, and much of it gone entirely. The Gibbs herbarium is deemed of special value as illustrative of Elliott's plants.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 25, 1898.

There were 38 persons present.

President Brown was in the chair.

The minutes were read and approved.

Mr. Bastedo called attention to the forthcoming three-days' excursion to Pt. Pleasant, N. J., in connection with the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences.

The evening was devoted to discussion and exhibition of acaulescent purple violets, introduced by a paper on "The Acaulescent Violets" by Mr. C. L. Pollard, of Washington, D. C., read by Dr. Hollick. This paper, soon to be printed, was the result of field study of the last two years, mainly in the Middle States, from which states most of our original species-types were derived. Mr. Pollard now describes 18 species and 3 varieties. He remarked that for violet characters we must depend upon unremitting field work. Herbarium material is useless except as fortified by previous familiarity with the appearance while growing. Large numbers of individuals must be studied and every feature of the environment must be noted. Careful attention must be given not only to habit but to habitat, to texture of herbage, color of the flowers, to position of the cleistogenes, to nervation, to shape and pubescence of leaves, and to the nature of the surrounding vegetation.

A series of mounted specimens illustrating this paper was exhibited by Dr. Britton, and a large number of fresh specimens were passed, the result of collections sent in by Miss Sanial and by Messrs. Rusby and Crawford, and by Drs. Rusby and Hulst.

The Club was adjourned to the second Tuesday in October.

EDWARD S. BURGESS, *Secretary*.